

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term “work stoppages.”

Data for the number of workers involved and days idle include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the month from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for all stoppages in effect during the month.

In the historical table, cumulative figures for days idle

for the year or year-to-date are shown for various reference periods. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying average total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings*, published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) Days idle as a percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days idle for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, write to Work Stoppages, Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001.

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TABLE D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1952-2000

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved ¹		Days idle ²	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
1952	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	0.38
1953	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994	45	-	322	-	5,020	.02
1995	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996	37	-	273	-	4,889	.02
1997	29	-	339	-	4,497	.01
1998	34	-	387	-	5,116	.02
1999	17	-	73	-	1,996	.01
1999 Through October	16	20	70.6	78.4	1,869.2	.01
2000 Through October ^P	35	36	376.9	379.9	20,328.6	.07

¹ Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period.

² Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period.

³ Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation

of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

NOTE: Dash indicates no data for this category.

P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, August 2000^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers		10/1/98		3,000	69,000
Association of National Advertisers, and American Association of Advertising Agencies Interstate American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Screen Actors Guild ..		5/1/2000		135,000	3,105,000
Northern California Drywall Contractors Association Northern California Painters		8/1/2000	8/16/2000	1,200	14,400
Hospitals (8) Bay area and Northern California Service Employees		8/2/2000	8/3/2000	3,500	7,000
Verizon Communications Interstate Communications Workers, and Electrical Workers (IBEW)		8/6/2000	8/23/2000	85,000	955,000
Earthgrain Company Interstate Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers		8/26/2000		4,100	4,600
Raytheon Company Eastern Massachusetts Electrical Workers (IBEW)		8/27/2000		3,100	12,400
Bath Iron Works Bath, ME Machinists		8/28/2000		4,800	19,200
Stoppages beginning in month	6			101,700	
Stoppages in effect in month	8			239,700	4,186,600

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, September 2000^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers		10/1/98	9/18/2000	3,000	33,000
Association of National Advertisers, and American Association of Advertising Agencies Interstate American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Screen Actors Guild ..		5/1/2000		135,000	2,700,000
Earthgrain Company Interstate Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers		8/26/2000	9/22/2000	4,100	46,900
Raytheon Company Eastern Massachusetts Electrical Workers (IBEW)		8/27/2000		3,100	62,000
Bath Iron Works Bath, ME Machinists		8/28/2000		4,800	96,000
Board of Education, City of Buffalo Buffalo, NY Buffalo Teachers Federation (NEA)		9/7/2000	9/7/2000	3,900	3,900
Board of Education, City of Buffalo Buffalo, NY Buffalo Teachers Federation (NEA)		9/14/2000	9/14/2000	3,900	3,900
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Los Angeles County, CA United Transportation Union		9/16/2000		7,400	74,000
Hospitals (3) Bay area, CA Service Employees		9/20/2000	9/20/2000	1,600	1,600
Washington Hospital Center Washington, DC District of Columbia Nurses Association (ANA)		9/20/2000		1,000	8,000
Stoppages beginning in month	5			17,800	
Stoppages in effect in month	10			167,800	3,029,300

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.
P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, October 2000^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Association of National Advertisers, and American Association of Advertising Agencies Interstate American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Screen Actors Guild ..		5/1/2000	10/30/2000	135,000	2,835,000
Raytheon Company Eastern Massachusetts Electrical Workers (IBEW)		8/27/2000	10/2/2000	3,100	3,100
Bath Iron Works Bath, ME Machinists		8/28/2000	10/22/2000	4,800	67,200
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Los Angeles County, CA United Transportation Union		9/16/2000	10/17/2000	7,400	74,000
Washington Hospital Center Washington, DC District of Columbia Nurses Association (ANA)		9/20/2000		1,000	21,000
Building and Realty Institute Westchester County, NY Service Employees		10/4/2000	10/10/2000	4,000	16,000
Los Angeles County Los Angeles County, CA Service Employees		10/11/2000	10/12/2000	42,000	84,000
Kroger Company Ohio and West Virginia United Food and Commercial Workers		10/11/2000	10/11/2000	1,400	1,400
Providence Rhode Island Hospital Providence, RI Teamsters		10/15/2000	10/16/2000	1,200	1,200
Summit Logistics Inc. Tracy, CA Teamsters		10/18/2000		1,600	16,000
Hospitals (8) Bay area and Northern California Service Employees		10/25/2000	10/25/2000	3,500	3,500
Stoppages beginning in month	6			53,700	
Stoppages in effect in month	11			205,000	3,122,400

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

NOTE: 21,000 Philadelphia classroom teachers and other school staff went on strike on Friday, October 27, 2000 after a full day's work. They were out on Saturday and Sunday, and came back to work on Monday, October 30, 2000 following a predawn announcement of an

agreement between the school district and the teachers' union. This strike is not included in the Bureau's series on work stoppage data because the object of BLS data on work stoppages is to measure the loss of work time due to work stoppages. This stoppage did not cause any work time loss.

P = Preliminary data.